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SRI K. ISHWARA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Mangalore Municipal Council applied to Government for any loan for the water-supply scheme;

(b) if so, how much was given for the scheme;

(c) when the investigation of the water-supply scheme in Mangalore was completed; and

(d) from what year the people of Mangalore have been supplied water?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Rs. 14,41,600.

" (c) In May 1952.

" (d) The scheme is under execution."

Remission of tax on wet land.

* 1958-E Q.—SRI G. GOVINDAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government propose to grant any remission of tax on wet land anywhere in the area on the eastern side of the Ramanathapuram district where the crops have failed due to failure of rains in 1954?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU:—" Yes. The Collector of Ramanathapuram proposes to grant remission of assessment on wet lands in certain estate taluks of Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar and Sivaganga estates and in some of the resumed inam villages in the Government taluks of Mudukulathur, Paramakudi and Aruppukottai, where the crops have failed due to the failure of the rains in 1954."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM:—" May I know what the total acreage of wet lands is in Ramanathapuram district? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU:—" I think the District Gazetteer or some such record will give correct information."

Road metalling in the West Coast.

* 1958-F Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any new or special method of metalling roads in areas like the West Coast where the average annual rainfall is very heavy?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—" There is no new or special way of metalling roads in the West Coast except that the camber given to water bound macadam here is more than in areas where rainfall

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is below 50 inches per annum. On important roads, the metalling is covered over with black top surface depending on the availability of funds.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Inasmuch as heavy rains are one of the causes for the bad condition of roads in the West Coast, will the Government consider the question of instituting some research to find out whether some new method can be evolved so that the roads may not get damaged on account of the heavy rains? ''

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" As regards the hon. Member's suggestion, I may inform him that the Government are going to set up a new research station and that research centre will go into that question. Apart from that, the Chief Engineer has also stated that due to heavy rainfall there has been deterioration of roads and that the minimum thing that can be done to prevent that economically is black-topping the road surface. This, the Government have approved of.''

Compensation under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.

* 1958-G Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided to defer consideration of the question of enhancing the compensation payable to the Madras Corporation and other local bodies under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) As the proposal of the Government of India to lay down an uniform taxation policy in regard to motor vehicles throughout India, is likely to affect the motor vehicles taxation structure in this State, this Government are awaiting the decision of the Government of India in the matter.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the fact that the Government are deriving a revenue of not less than 37 lakhs of rupees in the City of Madras under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and also in view of the fact the Government are only giving to the Corporation of Madras a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs for the maintenance of roads will the Government consider the feasibility of enhancing the share of the revenue of the Corporation derived under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act? May I also remind the Hon. Minister that when he was the Mayor of the Corporation he himself led a deputation to the Government of Madras pleading for a greater share to be allotted to the Corporation? ''

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I did lead a deputation when I was the Mayor of Madras. Now, I find that the ways and means position of the Government does not permit